



**HELP FREE**  
SHAWN RODRIGUEZ

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**Date: September 2, 2024**

**Morgan Gire**  
District Attorney  
Placer County District Attorney's Office  
10810 Justice Center Drive, Suite 240  
Roseville, CA 95678

Dear District Attorney Gire,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to bring to your attention very specifically to some critical information regarding the case of Shawn Rodriguez, whose resentencing request I initially submitted to your office in January of this year. At that time, I provided a comprehensive 92-page slide deck that detailed numerous aspects of the case warranting reconsideration, bolstered with evidence from the trial transcript itself.

Since that submission, I have compiled additional evidence that I believe is crucial for your office to review. Enclosed with this letter is a new slide deck focused on three key areas:

1. **Jury Instructions:** A thorough analysis of the instructions given to the jury during Shawn's trial, highlighting potential areas of confusion or misapplication. They were told things like, Shawn was "not only guilty of the particular crime that to his knowledge his confederates agreed to and did commit, but is also liable for the natural and probable consequences of any crime or act of a co-conspirator to further the object of the conspiracy, *even though that crime or act was not intended as part of the agreed upon objective and even though he was not present at the time of the commission of that crime or act.*" This is just one example of how jurors were repeatedly told they had to vote Shawn guilty of all of Anna Rugg's crimes because he had agreed to the robbery with her; at least that was their understanding of their instructions.

2. **Post-Trial Juror Feedback and Statements:** Testimonies and reflections from jurors after the trial, which make it clear that they knew Shawn was not involved in entrapping Nicholas Hamman/kidnapping him, and that they also knew Shawn had no intent to kill—a requirement for “conspiracy to commit murder.”

1. One juror said, “***Punishment is too severe...the punishment does not fit the crime. Nobody was hurt. Where is the justice? It is of my opinion that Shawn should spend no more than one year of confinement. I personally thought Mr. Rodriguez was guilty of false imprisonment, robbery, and auto theft only, and innocent on all other charges.***”

1. NOTE: Shawn was given 7 to life for kidnapping, and 25 to life for “conspiracy to commit murder,” even though he did not himself commit those crimes, as the juror statements like the above sample attest to.

2. Another juror said, “We saw no proof that Shawn had anything to do with actually getting him in the cell. ***There was no violence or menace on Shawn’s part as far as we could see. At no time during the trial or during the deliberations did I feel that Shawn was deserving of life in prison.*** I just don’t feel that this ‘go for the throat’ attitude on the part of the District Attorney was appropriate in this case. I do not believe that Shawn Rodriguez is a cold-blooded killer, and I do not believe he is deserving of this punishment, one that is usually given to those who are.”

3. Another juror said, “It was my conclusion that Shawn did not want to kill Nicholas...I do not feel that life in prison is fair at all....I felt tricked into his decisions by the prosecution...It is my intent for the court to reconsider the sentence for this young man. ***I beg the court to reconsider the sentence...***”

4. Another juror said, “No, I do not feel it is a fair punishment....it seems very harsh given that ***I do not believe he intended to kill him....I don’t believe Shawn was part of a plan to entrap the victim.***”

3. **Victim’s Recantation Letters:** Multiple letters in which the victim, years after the trial, recants his courtroom testimony and admits to committing perjury. ***When even the only victim is trying to get relief to Shawn...doesn’t that tell you something?***

What you can see is that Shawn was convicted of kidnapping and conspiracy to commit murder because jurors were told the law required them to vote Shawn guilty of Anna’s crimes because he agreed to the robbery with her.

These elements not only cast significant doubt on the original conviction but also raise serious concerns about the fairness and integrity of the trial process. Has the court ever considered the elements highlighted in this slide deck? Why has feedback from the jury never been given the appropriate attention it merits? Now is the time. Given the gravity of this information, I respectfully request that your office take a closer look at Shawn’s case with these considerations in mind.

I deeply appreciate the dedication of your office to upholding justice, and I trust that you will find this additional evidence compelling. It is my hope that this material will contribute to a fair and just resolution in Shawn's case.

Shawn was incarcerated as a 19-year-old, orphaned, homeless teenage boy. He is now a 41-year-old man, having spent more than half of his life incarcerated, most of that time for crimes he did not himself commit. **Please help.**

Of course, please feel free to contact me directly if you require any further information or clarification. I am fully committed to assisting in any way necessary to ensure that justice is served.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your favorable consideration of the enclosed materials.

Sincerely,



Dr. Angela Cotellessa

P.S. I fully understand that you must decide what you know to be right in your conscience, but I would like to draw your attention to the public sentiment surrounding this case, as it may be worth considering the perspectives of the community.

**YouTube:**

You might be interested in observing some of the discussions happening online regarding Shawn's case. One significant example is Sherrilyn Dale's YouTube channel, where she conducted an exhaustive review of Shawn's case. Her video, titled "Sentenced 25 to Life but the Victim Admitted to Perjury...", currently has over 31,000 views. I encourage you to watch the video and, importantly, to read the hundreds of comments from viewers. The public outcry in support of Shawn, and the overwhelming desire for his freedom, is palpable. Comments include statements like:

- "What a horrible case. It should be overturned."
- "That is crazy that Shawn is still being punished for something that Anna did!"
- "This is such a frustrating one! I don't think he should've received such severe charges or sentence. More than Anna?!"
- "Just reading the title video, if the victim lied he should at very least get a new trial."

### **Change.org:**

Additionally, a petition on Change.org has garnered numerous comments from people expressing their concerns about the injustices Shawn continues to face. Here are a few examples:

- **Wendy Lemus:** "The reason I am signing this petition is because he was only 19 when this crime happened in Auburn, CA. The person involved was already a sex offender, and after Shawn was convicted, the Plaintiff went and molested two other children. His co-defendant got off with a slap on the wrist even though one of the defendants was the plaintiff's girlfriend, and she was the mastermind. I understand that we have the penal system for a reason, but I feel Shawn paid for his crime a long time ago when he was a very young man. He is very intelligent and a good human being. He always has a smile on his face and is a very positive person."
- **Rosemary Roblin:** "Shawn clearly has the ability and desire to benefit his community once released. At no point was he ever a violent or dangerous offender, yet he is serving a sentence that far surpasses the crime committed. This is not justice."
- **Laura Geyman:** "The justice system is holding an innocent man. He deserves freedom and to be in society."
- **Jessica Marohn:** "The punishment doesn't fit the crime, and he deserves to be given a chance to contribute to society."
- **Lisa Fosker:** "He saved the man. He was obviously scared of the girl who wanted to murder Nick. He got a life sentence when he committed no murder. This is a disgrace. Free Shawn! I truly believe after watching Sherrilyn Dale's podcast where she gave all the details. Peer pressure is real but he was smart and saved the man. He admitted what he was guilty for, which was taking the \$40 and taking the car. He deserves to be freed. He has served more time than his crime."
- **Marc Nathaniel Agcaoili:** "This is such a travesty of justice."

These are just a few of the hundreds of comments expressing the public's concern and support for Shawn's release from prison. The overwhelming sentiment is that justice has not been served, and that Shawn deserves to be freed.

**Good Morning America:** One last thing, just as a courtesy so you are aware: Shawns' case is getting more and more podcast and social media coverage, and I'm currently in discussions with Good Morning America for their possible coverage of his case. I don't want you to be surprised when this starts getting national coverage, so wanted to let you know that Placer County may be in the limelight even more in the future since this case involves a severe injustice that has not yet been resolved. I hope you will do the right thing and **Help Free Shawn Rodriguez** sooner rather than later. Thank you very much for your time.